The final exam has 3 sections. Section A has 15 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each. They will come from the list of terms below and the syllabus readings with general questions that you should know if you read them. Section B has 8 identification questions from which you will choose 5, worth 5 points each. You should expect to write 3-4 sentence answers that define the term and states its importance to the study of state politics. Section C has 6 essay questions from which you will choose 2, worth 20 points each. The questions will be similar to the examples below, and you should prepare to write a 4-5 paragraph answer.

1. How closely do state policies match public opinion? In what ways does policy match opinion and what ways does it not? What features of a state are associated with more or less similarity between opinion and policy?

2. Some say that legislatures are not as important as they were, while others say they are more important. Which is it? What crucial roles do legislatures have, and how do they get their work done?

3. What are the most important changes in state legislatures since the 1960s? Discuss the reasons for these changes and the effects upon the legislature, and the power balance with and other political forces.

4. What factors are the most important influences on legislators’ decisions? Discuss how these factors might influence how legislators vote or interact with each other and other political actors (such as the governor).

5. Discuss the historic evolution of governors’ powers and the important ways governors’ powers can differ between states. Currently, what are governors’ constitutional and other powers? How can powerful governors dominate state politics?

6. What powers does the Minnesota governor have and how do they compare to other state governors? What is Minnesota’s current constitutional arrangement for its executive officers?

7. Know the roles and powers do executive officers below the governors’ offices in the states.

8. Why do state legislators and governors have such different views about how states should be run? What accounts for their different perspectives? What accounts for many disagreements that arise between them?

9. What do state bureaucracies do? What are some problems with bureaucracies? How can politicians control the bureaucracy? How have states recently reformed bureaucracies? How effective have those reforms been?

10. Discuss the most important features of the state judicial systems and how they relate to the federal judicial system. What are the most important recent developments in state judicial actions?

11. Briefly explain term limits and the controversy around term limits. What are the potential benefits and costs? What other effects have they had? Explain whether you think term limits are a good or bad idea.

The following list includes terms and topics we have covered in the course. You should incorporate them into your essays, and some will appear in the multiple choice questions and the identification questions.